THE NEW ORLEANS BEE.

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NEW ORLEANS:
TUESDAY MORNING, DEC. 22, 1863.

Sales at Auction To-day.

By F. F. Trinchard, at 10 o'clock, at his salesroom, No. 42 Gravier street, groceries.

By D. F. Morphy, at 10 o'clock, at No. 47 Magazine street, fire crackers and brooms; at 11 o'clock, at No. 47 Gravier street, damaged groceries.

By E. T. Montgomery, at 4 o'clock, at foot of Conti street, the schooner Ceres: at same hour and same place, schooner Marvelite; at one o'clock, at 93 Camp street, 250 bales cotton.

By D. E. Morphy, at 10 o'clock, at No. 47 Magazine street, molasses barrels.

Per telegraph from South West Pass.—The steamship Evening Star passed up at 9 o'clock, P. M.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS AND OINTMENT. For sores, scurvy, wounds, small pox fevers, and bowel complaints, these medicines are the best in the world. Every French soldier uses them. Only 25 cents per box.

ADVERTISEMENTS ON THE SECOND PAGE—On our second page will be found a variety of advertisements, some of which merit the special attention of many classes, while others deserve the consideration of the public in general.

D. E. Morphy, auctioneer, has advertised for this day sundry sales, well worthy the attention of buyers. See his auction advertisements.

The attention of cotton dealers is called to the sale of R. T. Montgomery, at the salesroom, 93 Camp street, at 1 o'clock this day.

Mr. F. F. Trinchard sells groceries this day, at 10 o'clock, at his auction store, No. 42 Gravier street.

IMPORTANT TO WOOD DEALERS.—All parties interested in the wood business are referred to the call elsewhere of a meeting of wood dealers, to be held on Wednesday, the 23d, at 7 o'clock, P. M., at No 58 Bienville street.

The numerous sales of R. T. Montgomery this day are worthy the attention of purchasers, and will take place in the following order: At 10 o'clock, at the private residence, 311 Magazine street, the entire contents of the dwelling consisting of rosewood and mahogany furniture, carpet, glassware, &c; at 11 o'clock, at Tatter sall's stables, Gravier street, a fine span of horses, barouche, and elegant top buggy; after which, at same place, several very fine horses and buggies; at 11 o'clock, at the auction mart, 87 Camp street, a large assortment of fine furniture, comprising the contents of four well furnished houses, removed for convenience of sale: at 4 o'clock, at the foot of Conti street, two fast sailing schooners, with their tackle and apparels. For full descriptions see advertisements under their proper heads.

The Present U. S. Congress.

Referring to the new Congress, the St. Louis *Republican* says:

The body will not be one remarkable for the number and ability of true patriots in it or for the statesmanship which the times and the crisis demand. The speeches of the last political campaign will be rehashed, and the mails loaded with printed matter for buncombe. The probability is there will be much acrimonious debate and heavy discussions of questions by no means calculated, in whatever way they may be decided, to solve the only absorbing issue of the day, to wit: the restoration of peace and the re union of the States and people. We fear that the politicians, and not the practical, useful legislators will principally control the time of the session. Acting upon precedent, we suppose there will be appointed another Committee on the Conduct of the War, whose business it will be to delve into the secrets of Mr. Stanton's Department, and also to bolster up small reputations, as well as pull down officers whose success and popularity have excited envy, jealousy and malice. It is likely that other committees will plaster over evidence of corruption in high or low places, whitewashing black dishonesty and bleaching mottled roguery. But the great business of the session will consist, doubtless, in preparing the preliminaries of the next Presidential election. Scarcely a measure will be proposed, or a speech made which will not be intended, have some bearing, direct or indirect, upon the political contest next fall. This idea seems to be holding all things else in subjection. Nearly every public act, whether military or civil, will be measured by its effect or influence upon the chances of This, or That or Such-a one for the succession. We think we can promise our patrons an abundance of political reading this winter; and treaty though much of it may be, it will behoove the people to carefully follow the proceedings of Congress as they transpire. So may they form an intelligent judgment for themselves while the matters are fresh, and thus be able to sift the true from the false when the politicians and electioneering orators attempt to bamboozle and mislead them next summer and fall.

The New York *World* on the same subject observes:

It is not probable that the first session of the Thirty-eighth Congress will be marked by any great measures, either good or bad. The audacity and enterprise of its immediate predecessor have left this Congress little to do except to gean in a field that has been well harvested. A Republican Senate and the presidential veto would stand in the way of a repeal of any of the capital acts of the last Congress, even if there were a conservative majority in the House; and it is not to be presumed that the Ethiopian will change his skin when every branch of the law-making power is doing homage to his color. To deepen the hue is simply impossible, except by legislative sanction of the statute against crossbet; but as the President is not under food to adopt that theory, the radicals can have no hope of commanding a majority in its favor in a House so evenly divided as the present.

The overdone legislation of last winter was greatly influenced by the unexpected Republican losses in the preceding elections, which so alarmed the party that they thought of little but erecting dykes against the incoming tide of Democracy. They tried to "hit things" two years in advance, so that the election of a Democratic House would not seriously clog the policy of the Republican administration. Relying on the Senate and the veto to withstand a repeal, they undertook, by an extreme use of the powers of legislation, to place the Republican management of the war beyond any check from the public opinion of the country if the political current should continue to run in the direction in which it was then so strongly setting. The consequence is that they have left the Congress comparatively little to do beyond attention to details.

The Election of Mr. Colfax as Speaker—his Address on Taking the Chair.

The following is a fuller report of the proceedings in the recent election of Speaker of the United States House of Representatives than we have yet published:

Mr. Washburne moved that the House proceed to the election of Speaker, *viva voce*.—Agreed to.

It was now half past one o'clock.

Mr. W. Washburne nominated Mr. Colfax.

Mr. Pendleton nominated Mr. Cox.

Mr. Ancona, Pa., nominated Mr. Dawson.

Mr. Grider, N. Y., nominated Mr. Mallory, Kentucky.

Mr. Steel, N. Y., nominated Mr. Stebbins.

Messrs. King and Blair, of Missouri, were also placed in nomination.

Messrs Pendleton, Dawes, Wadsworth and Pomeroy were appointed tellers to conduct the election.

The House then proceeded to a vote.

The result was announced as follows:

Whole number of votes cast	181
Necessary to a choice	91
Mr. Colfax	101
Mr. Cox	42
Mr. Dawson	12
Mr. King	6
Mr. Mallory	10
Mr. Stebbins	7
Mr. Blair	2
Mr. Stiles	1

The Clerk therefore declared Mr. Colfax legally and duly elected Speaker of the House for the Thirty-eighth Congress.

The announcement was greeted with vociferous applause.

Messrs Dawson and Cox were appointed to conduct the Speaker to the chair, the motion was followed by applause from the floor and galleries.

The Speaker, in taking the chair delivered a brief, eloquent and patriotic address, which was received with general applause.

ADDRESS OF MR. COLFAX.

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives:

To-day will be marked in American history as the opening of a Congress destined to face and settle the most important questions of the country, and during whose existence the rebellion, which has passed its culminations, will, beyond all question—thanks to our army and navy and Administration—die a deserved death. Not only will your constituents watch with the strictest scrutiny your deliberations here, but the friends of liberty to the most distant lands, will be interested spectators of your acts. In this greater than Roman forum, I invoke you to approach these grave questions with the calm thoughtfulness of statesmen, freeing your discussions from that acerbity which mars instead of advancing legislation; and, with unshaken reliance on that Divine Power which gave victory to those who formed this Union, and can give even greater victory to those who are seeking to save it from destruction by the hand of the parricide and traitor. I invoke you, also, to remember that sacred truth, which all history verifies, that "They who rule not in righteousness shall perish from the earth."

Thanking you with a grateful heart for the distinguished mark of your confidence and regard, and appealing to you for that support and forbearance, by the aid of which alone I can hope to succeed, I am now ready to take the oath of office and enter upon the duties you have assigned me.

Mr. Washburne, being the oldest Conservative member, was requested by the clerk to administer the customary oath, and, also, the oath of allegiance, which having been performed, the Speaker desiring to preserve the decorum of the House, said if persons in the galleries should indulge in manifestations either of approbation or dissent, the Sergeant-at-Arms and Doorkeeper would be instructed to take such persons into custody.

The members were then sworn in, advancing by delegations, as their names were.

The opposition vote on the occasion of Mr. Colfax's election is given as follows It will be seen that Messrs. Field and Cottman, of Louisiana, are reported as voting with the opposition:

For Mr Cox—Messrs. C. Allen, W. J. Allen, A. O Baldwin, Bliss, J. S Brown, Cravens, Dawson, Eaton, Edgarton, Eldridge, English, Fink, Harrington, C. M. Harris, Herrick, Holman, Hutchins, Wm. Johnson, Kalbfleisch, Kasson, Law, Le Blonde, Long, McDowell, Marcy, McKinney, Middleton, J. R. Morris, Morrison, Noble, John O'Neil, Pendleton, Perry, Robinson, Rogers, Ross, W T Sheets, Sweat, Voorhees, Wheeler, C. A. White, J. W. White.

For Mr. J. L. Dawson—Messrs. Ancona, Baily, Coffroth, Cox, Dennison, Philip Johnson, Lazear, McAllister, Wm. H. Miller, S J Randall, Stiles, Strouse.

For Mr Mallory—Messrs. Brooks, Grider, Harding, B Harris, King, J. S. Rollins, Stuart, Wadsworth, Ward, Yeaman.

For Mr King—Messrs. Chandler, Hall, Mallory, Radford, Scott, Fernando Wood.

For Mr. Stebbins—Messrs. Ganson, Griswold, Kernan, Nelson, Odell, Pruyn, J. B. Steele, Warfield.

For Mr. Blair, of Mo.—Messrs. Cottman and Field.

For Mr. Stiles—Mr B. Wood.

Dispatch from the President to Gen. Grant.

To Major-General Grant:

Washington, December 8—Understanding that your lodgement at Chattanooga and Knoxville is now secure, I wish to tender you, and all under your command, my more than thanks, my profoundest gratitude, for the skill courage and perseverance with which you and they, over so great difficulties, have effected that important object. God bless you.

(Signed) A. LINCOLN.

Address of General Lee.

[From the Richmond Whig, December 5.]

Meade has recrossed the Rappahannock; but as everything written by General Lee is of interest to his countrymen, we give his address to his army when a battle with Meade was expected:

Headquarters Army Northern Virginia, November 25, 1863.

General Orders, No. 102.

The enemy is again advancing upon our capital, and the country once more looks to this army for the protection. Under the blessing of God your valor has repelled every previous attempt, and, invoking the continuance of His favor, we cheerfully commit to him the issue of the coming conflict.

A cruel enemy seeks to reduce our fathers and mothers, our wives and our children, to abject slavery; to strip them of their property and drive them from their homes. Upon you these helpless ones rely to avert these terrible calamities, and secure to them the blessing of liberty and safety. Your past history gives them the assurance that their trust will not be in vain. Let every man remember that all he holds dear depends upon the faithful discharge of his duty, and resolve to fight, and, if need be, to die, in defense of a cause so sacred and worthy the name won by this army on so many bloody fields.

R. E. LEE, General.

Additional Regarding the Seizure of the Chesapeake.

Portland, December 11.—The agents of the steamer Chesapeake here, have evidence that the cargo of the Chesapeake was owned exclusively by American and Canadian merchants, and was not intended to run the blockade as was reported by the St. John's *Globe*

Rebel sympathizers here originated that report to the prejudice of the British authorities. Neither had she ever been a Southern vessel or attempted to run the blockade. The collector at Eastport telegraphs the collector at Portland that a Mr. Killan left Publoco, ten miles south of Yarmouth, last Monday, and at that time three French vessels laden with coal were lying in the harbor.

Portland, Me., December 11.—The Vice Consul at Halifax telegraphs the Collector that a steamer in Shelbourne, answering the description of the Chesapeake, attempted to coal at Halifax last night. Government was applied to but no encouragement given for want of evidence of murder committed. An affidavit of the charge would be made to the crown. Officers were deliberating upon it.

The steamer New England arrived this evening from St. John's, bringing Captain Willis and a portion of the crew of the Chesapeake, all of whom, with the exception of the master, who was badly wounded, proceeded to Boston. Willis reports having met two steamers bound east, undoubtedly in pursuit of the pirates. He also reports all persons engaged in the capture of the Chesapeake passed from St. John to Boston in the steamer New England but a few days ago, and most of them were undoubtedly provincial.

Western Markets.

St. Louis, Friday Evening, December 11.—There was a moderate business in produce today, at about yesterday's quotations.

Tobacco was steady, with sales of 16 hhds. and 1 cask, at $2 to $34 75 per 100 pounds for stems to good leaf.

Flour was dull and 10 cents lower, with sales of 250 bbls at $5 12½ for superfine; $5 80, inspected, hand lined and delivered for single extra, and $6 to $6 25 per bbl. for country double extra.

Whisky—Lower, with sales of 47 bbls. at 81c., and 255 do. in tcs, at 80c per gallon.

Dried Fruit—Sales of 414 bbls. apples at $1 35; 180 bbls and 57 sacks do., in tcs, at $1 40; 212 sacks, in tcs, at $1 45; 20 bbls. peaches in quarters, at $3, and 21 sacks do. in halves, at $3 42 per bushel.

White Beans—Sales of 5 sacks at $2, 14 do. at $2 10, 9 do. at $2 60, 15 bbls. at $2 75 to $2 80, 8 sacks at $2 90, and 1 bbl. choice at $3 per bushel.

Cincinnati, December 11, P. M.—Flour—Steady but unchanged.

Grain—Wheat in fair demand at $1 20 to $1 25 for red, and $1 40 to $1 45 for white. Corn dull and lower.

Whiskey—Advanced to 85c.

Hogs—Dull, owing to the bad weather, and prices are unsettled. Packers demand a reduction of 10 to 15c., but drovers contend for full prices. Sales light at $7 10 to $7 15 for 200 pound averages. Receipts, 9000.

Provisions—No change, and not much done.

Money—Gold 50. Silver steady. Exchange firm.

The Latest Foreign Commercial.

[By the Canada.]

Liverpool, November 23—Cotton closed buoyant at an advance of ¾d. for American, and 1-16d for Egyptian and Surats. Market closed on Friday buoyant and a trifle higher. Breadstuffs steady. Richardson, Spence & Co. and others report flour quiet and steady.

Wheat firm; winter red 8s. 6d. Corn quiet; mixed 29s. to 29s. 6d. Provisions quiet and steady. Bacon inactive at 1s. decline, chiefly on inferior. Lard firmer, and 6d. higher. Sugar active, and 1s. to 1s. 6d higher. Coffee tends downward, and prices 1s. lower.

Petroleum very dull at 1s. 8d. to 1. 9d. for refined; 4s 6d to 5s. for crude.

LONDON MARKETS.—Baring's Circular reports wheat firmer. Corn steady.

Sugar advancing. Coffee steady and quiet. Petroleum quiet at 10 to 11d. for refined; 17 for crude. Provisions quiet and steady, except lard, which tends downward.

American securities inactive, and most descriptions nominal. Illinois Central shares 23 discount. Consols closed on Friday at 92⅛ to 92⅝ for money. Bullion in the Bank has decreased $51,000.

As is generally known, the President has had the varioloid. As usual, Old Abe could not refrain from his jokes, for he remarked to his physician: "There is one consolation about the matter, doctor—it cannot in the least disfigure me."

The Case of West Virginia.

[From the Chicago Times.]

Mr. Davis, in the Senate at Washington, on Monday, raised a question as to the right of the gentlemen from West Virginia to take seats. He held that, constitutionally and legally, there was no such State, and therefore there could be no Senators from such a State. On the motion that the oath of office be administered to them, the vote was 36 yeas to 5 nays, the nays being Buckalew, Davis, Hendricks, McDougall and Powell. The legality of the organization of West Virginia, and the proceedings attending her pretended admission, have been so fully discussed that it is useless again to open the question. It is sufficient to say that the opinion of Attorney-General Bates, characterizing them as "original, independent acts of revolution," is fully sustained in the open violations of the constitution which recognizes her as a State.

It is altogether probable that she will be cited by the radicals as a precedent, justifying the dismemberment and reorganization of other States, in the enforcement of the Whiting programme. For this, if for no other reason, we are glad that Mr. Davis very plainly and unequivocally raised the question and stated his objections. As the consent of the Virginia Legislature to the dismemberment was never obtained, it will not hereafter be deemed necessary to obtain the consent of the Legislature of any State to any scheme of dismemberment which a fraction of its people, backed by a majority in Congress, may propose.

The provisions of the constitution can no longer be pleaded as a barrier to the demands of Whitmgism by any portion of the Administration party, since it has fully indorsed the disintegration of Virginia. If to secure an insignificant or real advantage, the constitution may in any instance be set aside by Congress, the discretion of that body is the only criterion for determining when constitutional obligations shall be operative.

Of course no one imagined that the Senators from West Virginia would not be permitted to take their seats. The question had been decided before the opening of the present Congress, and the administration party was fully committed to her recognition as a State. Perseverance in wrong, however, is no more justifiable than the first commission of it, though the quiet disposition made of the question raised by Mr. Davis indicated that the majority of the Senate had become so accustomed to legislative action which violated the constitution as to regard it with indifference. That majority has grown insolent with strength, and is vain enough to imagine that the preponderance which it now holds will continue for an unlimited period. It is vain enough to imagine that such action as has dismembered Virginia may be imitated elsewhere, and will insure its perpetuation in power. It mistakes the temper of the people, and errs grievously in supposing that there is hereafter to be no inquiry into the status of West Virginia.

Her Senators and Representatives may be admitted to all the privileges of Congressmen now; her State government may perform its functions, and her officials, one and all, act with in the sphere marked by her constitution and statutes, but the validity of the proceedings which have invested her with the privileges of a State are hereafter to be questioned. She may not be remanded to her old position, but she will be required to obtain the consent of the State of Virginia, and to enter the Union in the manner provided for by the constitution. Time has not buried the question, and cannot bury it, while the people retain sought of reverence for the supreme law, which until the present administration came into power determined the legality of all legislative act on. In this, as in all cases of violation of the constitution, its authority will in time be vindicated by the people in annulling all laws in conflict with it and in the punishment of those who have defied it. Our courts and ballot-boxes are herein to accomplish with us what we trust our armies will accomplish with the insurgents.

Notes of Preparation.

[From the Chicago Times.]

Civilized nations seem to have gone mad—to have been stricken with a war mania, which can only be appeased by enormous preparations for combat or a participation in actual hostilities. The world seems to have become a vast workshop, whose forges resound with the clang of hammers and the roar of blast furnaces, in the interior of that mountain amidst whose smoke and flames Vulcan and his grim workmen forged thunderbolts for Olympian Jupiter. Every where is heard the note of preparation, as fortifications are thrown up, iron clad vessels launched, cannons mounted behind defenses, works strengthened, harbors blockaded against a foreign foe, and internal manufactories erected to supply everything that may be needed for offensive and defensive warfare.

Russia is protecting her coast defenses with iron plating eleven inches thick, and mounting them with her formidable nine-inch rifled steel guns; France is busily adding to her iron clad navy; England is spending millions upon her cannon; while the other powers of Europe are pushing their war armament with all the expedition possible to human effort.

There is not a single first-class nation, or even a second-class, that has not a war on hand, or is not occupying a position that renders one either imminent or inevitable. England has New Zealand and Japan already in actual hostilities; Russia has Poland; and France, Mexico. Denmark prepares for war against her recreant Duchies. Austria and Prussia are making all preparations, uncertain as yet into which scale to throw their swords, but certain that before the claims of Poland and the Schleswig-Holstein question are settled they will be obliged to become active participants.

Never was there a time when universal war seemed so impending as now. Our own continent is in a blaze, and it seems as if the smallest spark would at any moment kindle a flame which will envwap the remainder of the civilized world in conflagration.

Diplomacy may avert the danger from Europe, yet it is difficult to see how, judging from the attitude of the various powers. Russia has flung her defiance in the face of three of the most formidable Powers of Europe, and, while they are deliberating upon suitable action, she is stringing every nerve to strengthen her fortifications and increase her armies.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Second District Recorder's Court—Chas Leaumont.—Joe. a darkey, who got drunk again, was furnished with a cart to take him to the Workhouse for sixty days.

Pat. Grant, for the same cause, was fined $10, with the recommendation to scour his stomach from the terrible stuff he had been swallowing. He went and got a herring and a dose of rhubarb.

Elizabeth Fardy, U. Sivet and Bridget Fabey, for a spree, were left the choice of the Workhouse or fines of $10 and $5.

First District Court—Judge Hiestand.—R. Fabey, charged with arson, was to be tried yesterday, but the case was continued, and the accused, in the meatime, admitted to bail in sum of $1000.

Provost Court—Judge Atocha presiding.—Manuel Silva was tried for purchasing uniforms from deserters. He offered to enlist, as a punishment, but the Court discharged him, on account of his stupidity.

Ch. Parker and Ch. Williams, sailors, were charged with having committed an assault and battery on a soldier, without any provocation The old story drunk and mischievous and nobody hurt. They were dismissed.

Frank Proctor was the unhappy possessor of two United States blankets bought from soldiers A watchman found the corpus delectus and brought him before the Court. He lost his blankets.

Two soldiers went into a restaurant and had several courses of oysters in various styles.—When they had satisfied their inner man they confiscated the knives and spoons, but were arrested. One of them had evaporated this morning, and the other was sentenced to loose one month's pay. Another soldier for dining without having wherewith to pay for it, was sent to the Workhouse for thirty days.

Four soldiers were sent down from Carrollton, one for being drunk and acting rebellious, three others for interfering and attempting to rescue the prisoner. Captain Kleemeir, who was officer of the day, testified against them. They claimed to have been drunk, and one of them insinuated that a number of the troops were intoxicated at the time, and complained that his Captain had slapped him in the face at the time. The Court held that if the officers would enforce the regulations the intoxication of the men and the mutiny would not have happened. They had been in jail six weeks, and were sentenced to two months imprisonment and to forfeit two months pay.

U. S. Provisional Court.—Judge Peabody. T. C. A. Dexter brought suit against Gilbert Montague Th. S. Thorpe, Th. Caden and W. B. Brownell. He alleges that defendants entered into a contract with him in January, 1863, whereby they bound themselves to give him two-sixths of the net profits of shipment of goods on the brig Joshua Jex, for Matamoros. The shipment was at the risk of defendants, and plaintiff to give his time and attention to the sale of the goods The stock shipped cost in this port $36,375 78, and the vessel and cargo arrived on February 12th in Boca del Rio Grande, and was sold at Matamoros, as the plaintiff alleges, with a profit of 50 to 100 per cent. On these grounds plaintiff claims from defendants the sum of $4973, and prays for citation and judgment in the case.

Inquests.—The Coroner reports the following inquests: On the body of Harriet Manville. The jury said in this case: "From the evidence introduced before the jury of inquests, we do say that deceased came to her death by a balcony falling upon her, fracturing her skull, thereby causing her death. This balcony was attached to one of the Court buildings fronting on St. Ann street. Her death was accidentally caused in this manner. We would most earnestly and respectfully recommend to the city authorities that steps be taken to have all balconies, hanging signs, etc., put in proper condition and so kept."

Several other inquests were held, but they were not of public interest.

The inquest on the colored woman, Polly Baker, shot near the University Hospital, is not yet concluded.

[FROM OUR EVENING EDITION OF YESTERDAY]

The officers of the steamer Nebraska, from St. Louis, have our thanks for the prompt delivery of Western papers to the 12th instant.

The Latest from the North via the River.

By the arrival of the steamer Nebraska, from St. Louis, we have St. Louis papers to the 12th instant, containing New York and other Eastern dates to the 11th. From these sources we derive also some Southern intelligence.

Army of the Potomac.

[Special Dispatch to the New York World.]

Headquarters Army of the Potomac.—There are no movements to record in the Army of the Potomac. The intention to keep the army here for some time, unless circumstances that are not calculated upon arise, is everywhere apparent.

The men are building comfortable quarters and preparing for winter. A rumor is current here to-day which may be given for what it is worth, that Lee has under a flag of truce forwarded a request to General Meade for an armistice of three month's duration.

Fighting in Mississippi.

New York, December 11th.—The Richmond papers of the 11th state that General Stephen Lee reports from Mississippi that General Chalmers drove the enemy over Flint river, slaughtering over 300. The rebels lost twenty five killed, and seventy-five wounded.

The rebel accounts report that the Georgia Senate has ordered the conscription of every able-bodied man over fifteen years old.

Guerrilla Operations.

Cincinnati, December 11.—The *Commercial's* Louisville dispatch says guerrillas in Cumberland, Wayne and Clinton counties are very troublesome, often wading across the Cumberland, destroying property, stealing horses and conscripting citizens

They are generally believed to be rebel citizens who take this method of robbing Union men.

Four thousand two hundred Chattanooga prisoners have passed through Louisville.

It is generally believed that James Guthrie will be elected United States Senator by the Kentucky Legislature

A vote of thanks to Generals Grant and Burnside was offered in the Senate yesterday.

From Washington.

Washington, December 10.—The President has signed a pardon exempting E. W. Gantt, of Arkansas, from the penalty of treason, which he incurred by accepting and exercising the office of Brigadier General in the service of the rebels The pardon also reinstates Gantt in all his rights of property, excepting those relating to slaves.

[Special Dispatch to the New York Tribune.]

Washington, December 10.—The proclamation enjoined by the President's message was written, substantially in the form in which it was issued, several weeks ago, and the President at the time seriously thought of issuing it before the meeting of Congress.

Since its appearance, the question has been raised in official quarters as to whether the rebel prisoners in our hands, under the rank of Colonel, may not avail themselves of the amnesty offered. Some persons think, therefore, that the rebel prisoners now in our hands would gladly accept the terms if it includes them The question thus becomes of much importance

There is, so far as can be ascertained, a general disposition on the part of members of Congress to carry out the recommendation of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue and the Secretary's message in respect to increased taxes on liquors and tobacco. It is thought probable Congress will impose a heavier tax on whiskey than proposed, perhaps 75c to $1 per gallon.

The details of the draft, as far as ascertained, are $600,000 men and $120,000,000 The figures given in the Secretary of War's report are based upon data two or three weeks old.

The navy has thirteen vessels in pursuit of the pirate Chesapeake.

New York, December 11th.—A Washington special states that Senator Brown, of Missouri, has arrived.

Frauds in the Quartermaster's Department at Alexandria will foot up millions, and have been in progress seven months. Other arrests were to be made last night.

Five thousand horses stampeded from the cavalry camp at Greensboro.

An attempt was made to stop them while passing over the bridge communicating with Washington, but did not succeed, and many were drowned.

From Mexico via San Francisco.

MOVEMENTS OF THE FRENCH—DEATH OF COMONFORT.

San Francisco, December 9.—Arrived, steamer Panama, from Mazatlan, with $40,000 in treasure, and dates from Colima, Mexico, to the 27th of November.

General Comonfort was killed on the road between San Luis Potosi and Guanajuato, while battling against a band of Mexicans who favor French occupation.

The French had possession of Queretaro and Guanajuato, and were marching on Guadalaya. The Juarez Government is represented as powerless, anarchy ranging within his nominal jurisdiction.

This news comes through private letters to a commercial house in San Francisco.

New York Markets.

New York, December 11—P. M.—Money—Easy and in good supply at 7 per cent. Sterling quiet at 164 to 165. Gold irregular and unsettled, opening at 51⅝, advancing to 52, and closing dull at 50¼.

Cotton—1 to 2c. better. Sales at $6 to $6 40 for extra State

Provisions—Pork is without material change; 300 bbls. new mess for January and February, sold at $21 50. Beef quiet and unchanged.

FROM EUROPE.

Arrival of the Steamer Canada.

Halifax, December 11—The Canada, from Liverpool, 28th, via Queenstown, 29th, arrived here this afternoon with two days later dates than have been received.

The steamer Rappahannock, under the Confederate flag, arrived at Calais on the 26th ult.

The Confederate steamer Georgia has gone into dock at Cherbourg, to repair some small damages.

Advices from Calais say that the Rappahannock was seized by the French custom authorities. She sailed from Sheerness, England, on the 26th of November in an unfinished state. She had a gang of carpenters on board. She is pierced for eight guns.

Mr. Spence, of Liverpool, the writer on secession in the London *Times*, has been addressing large meetings in Glasgow in favor of Southern independence. He urged that England should take the lead in inviting the European powers to intervene in the American war.

Advices from Paris hint that England's refusal may lead France to form a new and more intimate alliance elsewhere.

London, November 29.—Paris bourse closed flat yesterday at 66f. 80c.

The German Diet refused to receive the Danish representatives.

The officers of the French Customs have released the steamer Rappahannock, said to be one of the four vessels sold by the British Government to the Confederates. The other three are fitting out on the Thames for the Confederate service

The customs authorities at Calais have received instructions to allow the Confederate steamer Rappahannock to leave whenever her captain pleases. The Rappahannock was formerly her Majesty's steamsloop Victor, and was sold with three other steamers a few weeks ago. Three of the latter are English war steamers, and are reported to be fitting out as Confederate privateers.

CONFEDERATE BELIEF.—A correspondent of the Leavenworth *Conservative*, writing from the East, says:

There does not seem to be any serious apprehension as to the currency becoming inflated and a consequent crash in our Treasury matters, though greenbacks become as numerous as the leaves of the forests of our great continent; for greenbacks are "for the healing of the nation."

The writer's beautiful confidence is another illustration of the truth that the experience of one generation is wholly lost on the ignorance or carelessness of another. Mr. Chase is, we are glad to see, not given to such credulity; for, while he has to use greenbacks, wisely wants to use as few of them as possible.

The Ohio was falling at Pittsburg on the 11th, with 3 feet 4 inches in the channel.

The United States and France—War in Store for England

By the Scotia, whose English dates were to the 21st ultimo, the following noteworthy remarks of the Paris correspondence of the London *Post*, Government organ, were received by the New York press:

Some journals have stated that the Government of the United States has made representations to the French Government concerning the creation of an empire in Mexico. I believe that this is quite an error. The Government at Washington, on the contrary, has uttered rather friendly language on the subject. The President long ago laid it down as a rule that America must not quarrel with France or with any power until the domestic struggle is over. It is then, we learn, the intention of the American Government (no matter, we are told, who may be in power) to settle accounts with England. For that reason America is building 100 iron-clad ships of various sizes and power. The war with England is to be a maritime contest The Slidell and Mason humiliation and the Alabama outrages are to be revenged. Russia has, we are told, already agreed to assist the North when the proper time comes. Under such circumstances the United States Government have explained to Juarez that they can for a time only offer him their sympathy. Those from whom I heard this are certainly in a position to know something about the feeling of Mr. Lincoln and his friends. I may add that the French Government continues to observe the strictest neutrality. The representations made by the representatives of the North concerning the building of vessels of war for the South in French ports have met with the utmost courtesy at the Foreign office here.

FIGHT WITH GUERRILLAS AT WATERPROOF.—The Memphis *Bulletin* says: "A land expedition was sent against these (guerrillas) who have erected batteries at Waterproof, for the purpose of firing into steamers on the river The rebels were routed, with a loss of sixteen killed, several wounded and a few prisoners."

LATEST INTELLIGENCE OF JOHN MORGAN.—The Louisville *Journal* of the 12th says: "We have just received intelligence, of a perfectly reliable character, stating that John Morgan and four others passed through this State, and was seen on Monday within ten miles of Burkesville, where he stopped and made enquiries in regard to the distance of Cumberland river, and whether or not it was fordable. The party are represented as being well dressed in citizens' clothes and armed and mounted."

SPORTS OF FRENCH STATESMEN.—Among the anecdotes of the life of Thiers is one that states him to be very partial to a game of cards, and that he shows himself a great expert at *écarté* but the truth is M. Thiers never touched a card in his life. M. Berryer, on the contrary, amuses himself every evening with a game at piquet or whist—two games in which he fears no rivals, for he plays them to perfection. In the morning, when he has time, he is fond of a game at billiards, in which, however, he meets his superior in M. Odilon Barrot. M. Fould is great at chess, and M. de Persigny at billiards.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Fatal Accident—A sentinel at the University hospital on Common street, was showing to a comrade some movements in drill, when he suddenly brought the muzzle of the musket to the rear pointing rather low. In that moment the piece was discharged by striking forcibly against the fence. The ball struck a colored woman named Polly Baker and passed through the breast, causing instant death. The soldier grieves at the unlucky affair, and say he feels sure that he had no cap on the piece, and he did not see the unfortunate woman until she fell dead.

First District Recorder's Court—H. T. Vennard Presiding.—The recorder's patience was sorely tax'd this morning with the examination of nearly 100 prisoners, of all shades, all sexes, sizes and stations.

John McMahon and John Kearny, John Cotter, Jerry Kelliher and Mary Ranly, for separate and promiscuous fighting were tried and severally fined $15 each, and Mary Reilly $5.

Several parties were fined for selling liquor after 9 o'clock, and a long list of persons found drunk, or charged with small offenses, were disposed of in the usual manner.

SAILING TWENTY MILES AN HOUR.—A great deal of scientific speculation is being heard as to the possible speed which may be obtained by ships with the new immensely long iron cruiser, which will enable a vast spread of canvas to be raised, which can be folded in a trice from the deck with a very small steam engine working the necessary apparatus It is hoped to sail a consecutive twenty miles an hour out of sailing vessels, and commence a new era in nautical matters.

BILL FOR THE PUNISHMENT OF SLAVEHOLDERS.—We read in a New York dispatch of the 11th inst.:

The *Times* says Lovejoy's bill for the punishment of slaveholders, of which he gave notice on the first day of the session, provides that all slaves freed by the Emancipation Proclamation of January first, or by act of Congress, shall be declared to be citizens and competent witnesses in all United States Courts. Any one attempting to reduce any one so freed, again to slavery, shall be declared guilty of misdemeanor, and punished with a fine of not less than $2000, or more than $10,000, and be imprisoned not less than one or more than ten years.

MONETARY AND FINANCIAL.

SEE OFFICE,
MONDAY EVENING, Dec. 21, 1863.

The non-arrival of the expected steamer from New York appeared to check the movement in monetary matters to-day, but still, as will be seen from the details below, there was a fair demand both for Gold and New York Exchange The news via the river and the West came to hand at about 11 o'clock, but was not published until nearly 3. The annual election for 12 directors of the New Orleans City Railroad Company took place this morning, and resulted in the return of the following gentlemen: Messrs. Henry Hart, F. Wintz, F. Irwin, A. Penn, Josiah Cole, J. J. E. Maslieot, H. Gally, F. Peschier, J P. Coulon, J. C. Harris, Jas. Jackson and P. S. O'Brien. The two last are new members. Ten others were re-elected without opposition.

In Domestic Exchange we noticed some unexceptionable New York sight sold at ¼ cent. discount, but there was very little to be had at that rate. In fact while there was a good demand at 1 discount, there was very little offering at any figure. Some second class was offered at 1 and 1¼ discount. Some ten days' sight was offered at 1¾. The banks continue to check on New York at par, and dealers draw at par@¼ ⅌ cent. discount for sight and one days' sight. There was extremely little counter demand. Foreign Exchange continues quiet but firm. The banks still hold sterling at 165, 16 and 170, payment exacted in their own notes, which makes the rates equal to 163@170 for currency. The bank rates for France are 5 40@5 25, while the outside market is quoted nominal at 5 30@5 40.

We noticed a fair demand for Gold at 54 and 55 ⅌ ct. premium, some buyers offering a fraction higher. Holders ask 55¼@56. Dealers bought the small sums offered at their counters at 55 and 54 premium, and sold at 56 or higher. Silver was quiet at 40@14 ⅌ cent. premium. Nothing transpired in Mexican dollars.

Legal Tender notes continue to circulate freely at par with currency, but when wanted for special purposes command ⅛ ⅌ cent. premium; Citizens' Bank notes rule at 1@1¼ ⅌ cent. premium. Dealers offer only 1¼ premium for Canal, but ask more; Crescent City Bank notes are wanted at 60c. ⅌ dollar. They have sold at 64@64¼. Dealers offer 47½@50c. for Bank of Louisiana and sell at 51; Merchants' are quoted at 55@60c. There is very little doing.

In stocks we heard of sales of from 130 to 140 shares of the Bank of America, in several lots, on Saturday at 61, and one sale to-day at 61. The last sales reported in Canal Bank were at 50, but there were previous transactions at 45 and 47 50. City Railroad shares are held at 120@121 and Gas Light at 125@128. Consolidated City Bonds are quoted at 82@84. The last sales reported of the City Bonds endorsed by the Jackson Railroad was at 61. There were previous sales at 62 and 62½—Nothing transpired in Insurance Scrip. It may be quoted at 32½@40c. ⅌ dollar, but on Saturday we reported a sale at auction at 40½. There are parties looking about to push up desirable lots at 35 and 37½, but we hear of no further sales.

COMMERCIAL.

OFFICE OF THE BEE,
MONDAY EVENING, December 21, 1863.

COTTON.—The market was quiet to-day, with only an inconsiderably supply offering and without any perceptible change in prices. There was about fair demand at auction. The sales at private sale embraced 24 bales flooded, sound, at 63c., 11 Low Middling at 61½c., and 132 Middling good style and staple, at 71½ or 72 There were some offers pending towards the close, which may have been accepted subsequently. The non arrival of the New York steamer checked the movement. The news by the river and the West was not made public until the afternoon.

SUGAR AND MOLASSES.—The receipts have been liberal since last Saturday, and the supply on sale on the landing this morning was large and in excess of the demand. Purchasers had partially withdrawn from the market, to await later Northern advices due. To-day's sales of Sugar were confined to 200 hhds., in several lots, at previous prices; Common 9½c., Good Common to Fair 10@c., Fully Fair 11½c., and Seconds new crop 11½c., and Fully Fair old crop 11½@11¾c. ⅌ lb. Of Molasses the sales were confined to 70 bbls., in many lots at prices indicating a decline of about 1@2c. ⅌